

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Women were mobilized in the Soviet Armed Forces on a large scale during WW II, although before the war there were very few female military personnel in service, and these were, for the most part, medical personnel. After the war began, large-scale mobilization of women commenced, and so-called administrative battalions (khozyaystvenniye bataloni) were organized. Women served as medics, signal personnel, machinists, staff personnel, cooks, cleaners, maids, and laundry personnel. Some women were even employed as snipers and scouts. After the end of the war, these women were, generally, demobilized, receiving a separation card (voyennyy билет), which declared their liability to recall to service in case of national emergency. Under these conditions, women so demobilized could be recalled at any time.
2. Since 1950 there has been a large number of women in the Soviet Army; there has also been a strong recruiting drive to induce women to enlist. Women obtained through these drives were being considered as "hired" (volnonayomniye). A proclamation was recently issued by the Military Commissariat calling for the voluntary conscription of women in the army for a period of three years. In general, this was not officially a draft. Those women who served during WW II received special training and after demobilization became reservists, subject to recall. Also since 1950, specialist military training has been emphasized in medical institutions; personnel completing training at these institutions were being retained. [REDACTED] women were also being prepared for positions as signal personnel, transport personnel, etc, and even for such jobs as machine gunners. Many were said to be working in secret coding sections.

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3. After the end of WW II, the organization known as the Osoaviakhim (Obshchestvo Sodeystviya Aviatsii i Khimii) was reorganized into three departments: the Dosflot, Dosav, and Dosarm (Dobrovolnoye Obshchestvo Sodeystviya Voennomorskoy Floty, Dobrovolnoye Obshchestvo Sodeystviya Aviatsii, and Dobrovolnoye Obshchestvo Sodeystviya Armii, respectively). Branches of these three departments were in Astrakhan. Women in all three organizations were trained in anti-aircraft defense. Attached to the regional Dosarm committee in Astrakhan was an organization engaged in the training of dogs for military duties. Another sub-organization of the Dosarm was on Ilichev Street. The regional committee of the Dosav was on Chkalovskaya Street; the president of the committee was Batashev (fnu). Attached to the Dosav was an aeroclub, whose leader was Major (fnu) Makeyev. Pilots, gliderists, parachutists, aviation mechanics, and machinists were being trained in this unit. All members of this group were from 18 to 23 years of age and had finished the 10th class of the secondary (sredniy) school. All training in the club was conducted without interference with working hours.
4. The Dosflot was also located on Ilichev Street; the leader of this group was Captain Third Rank (fnu) Garanin. Subordinate committees of the Dosflot were: navigation-piloting (navigatsionno-shturmanskiy), artillery-mine (artilleriysko-minnyy), ship (korabelnyy), signal (svyazi i signalizatsii), and mechanic (mekhanicheskiy) committees. Attached to these organizations of the Dosflot were so-called cells (Yacheyki), which were the Reydtanker and Volga-Tanker steamship companies, the Volga-Caspian State Fishing Trust, Chief Directorate of Caspian Fish Industries, Astrakhan's High School (technical) for Fisheries, Astrakhan's Navigation School, Astrakhan's River Transport School, Astrakhan's ship repair yards, as follows: imeni Tenth Anniversary of October Revolution, imeni Third International, imeni Stalina, imeni Lenina, imeni Artema Sergeyeva, imeni Uritskogo, and Ship Repair Yard #55; also Wharf imeni Kirova, Maritime Wharf, Astrakhan's River Port, Astrakhan's Sea Port, the Chief Directorate of ReydtekhFlot, Plant imeni Karla Marksa, and Astrakhan's Administration of Maritime Register. All of these factories and institutions had primary Dosflot committees, and many women were members of these organizations. as many as 25 percent of the entire membership of the Dosflot was made up of women. Emphasis in training was on signalists (svyazi i signalizatsii). Personnel trained as much as four hours a week in these various groups, after finishing work at the factories. For the first year, trainees were considered pupils; and, after they completed an examination, they received a title. Women had the right to decline membership in the Dosflot, but men were obligated to give some of their spare time to this work. Women were not trained in ship artillery, only in signal work.

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